

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 AID-05 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6439

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EINV, EMIN, CPRS, PE, US

SUBJ: MARCONA NATIONALIZATION - SITUATION AT SAN

NICOLAS MINE

REFS: A) LIMA 6669, B) LIMA 6395, C) LIMA 6318

1. A U.S. CITIZEN EMPLOYEE AT THE SAN NICOLAS MINE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS ON AUGUST 21 THAT "ALL IS NORMAL" AT THE MINE IN REGARD TO FOREIGN EMPLOYEES' STATUS. TO DATE, 11 FOREIGNERS (INCLUDING FIVE U.S. CITIZENS) HAVE SUBMITTED THEIR RESIGNATIONS, TO BE EFFECTIVE 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF SUBMISSION. THE EMPLOYEE ESTIMATED THAT THE MINE COULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION WITHOUT FOREIGN SUPERVISION, ALTHOUGH LESS EFFICIENTLY. NO HARASSMENT, REPRISALS, OR PRESSURE IS BEING PLACED ON FOREIGN EMPLOYEES, ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE.

2. COMPTON TOLD TWO U.S. ACCOUNTANTS, MENTIONED IN REF C, IN A DISCUSSION ON AUGUST 21, TO STAY ON THE JOB AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO LET IT BE KNOWN THAT MARCONA WILL PICK UP ALL INCIDENTAL COSTS WHICH HIERROPERU WILL NOT PAY FOR ALL MARCONA EMPLOYEES WHO DECIDE TO LEAVE. HE EMPHASIZED TO THE ACCOUNTANTS THAT MARCONA IS SEEKING A SATISFACTORY

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SETTLEMENT AND COMPANY POLICY IS TO HAVE FOREIGN EMPLOYEES

STAY, ALTHOUGH THEY CAN, OF COURSE, LEAVE IF THEY DESIRE.

3. THE MINE EMPLOYEE ALSO TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT MINE PRODUCTION IS NOW AT 40 PERCENT OF TOTAL CAPACITY. HIERROPERU HAS SHUT DOWN ONE PELLET LINE AND REDUCED PRODUCTION ON THE OTHER, SO THAT TOTAL PELLET PRODUCTION IS NOW APPROACHING 50 PERCENT OF NORMAL. HOWEVER, EMPLOYEE EMPHASIZED THAT, ALTHOUGH REGULAR ORE BINS ARE FILLED, HIERROPERU IS NOW MOVING ORE TO SECONDARY BINS LOCATED AT ABANDONED PIER AREA AND CAN CONTINUE PELLET PRODUCTION, AT THE REDUCED RATE, FOR SOME TIME. HIERROPERU IS ALSO MAINTAINING ALMOST FULL WORKER PRODUCTION, BY SWITCHING WORK FORCE FROM ORE AND PELLET PROCESSING TO PERATIONS TO REMOVE OVERBURDEN. THESE OPERATIONS CAN CONTINUE ALMOST INDEFINITELY, ACCORDING TO THE EMPLOYEE.
DEAN

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